

Dear Friends of Simplicity,

This is the Simplicity Matters Earth Institute Monthly Announcement for **January 2013**. It is going out to more than **1,540 people**. If you do not want to receive this once-a-month email in the future, simply hit "reply" and ask to be removed.

Please also remember that if you prefer not to read this announcement in email form, you can always access it on the web at www.simplicity-matters.org/announcements/ or as a PDF at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/events/2012/2013-1.pdf>.

In case you are not aware, **SMEI is now on Facebook! Please "like" us:**
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Simplicity-Matters-Earth-Institute/130611396993657> Please start posting articles, thoughts, and questions there, to start some online dialogue. Consider it the SMEI "blog"!

We also have a Yahoogroup, called "DCMetroSimplifiers," with about 270 members, if you want to be involved during the month in an "interactive dialogue." You can subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>.

For our friends in Baltimore, there is also a YahooGroup called "Green City Baltimore," with similar interactive opportunities and about 95 members. You also can subscribe from our "Online Convos" tab of our website or directly at <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/online>.

This announcement is organized into five sections:

- 1) Second Sunday Forum, Earth Forum of Howard County, Baltimore Green Forum
- 2) Discussion Circle Update
- 3) Community Events
- 4) Action Opportunities & Tidbits
- 5) February Preview & Beyond

Thanks to this month's editors, **Michael Hartman and Beth Lacey Gill**

Thanks also to Lisa Ferretto, for letting us borrow many of the event listings from **Green Events Baltimore**, <http://greeneventsaltimore.com/>

SECOND SUNDAY FORUM

Sunday, January 13,

6:30 - 8:30 pm,

Bethesda, MD

Why We Can't Shop Our Way to a Better Economy - TED talk from Stacy Mitchell (Institute for Local Self Reliance),

Discussion led by Karen and Jamie Scharff. In this TEDx talk, delivered on October 20, 2012, ILSR Senior Researcher Stacy Mitchell argues for a new phase in the local economy movement. She notes that there's been a resurgence of support for small farms, local businesses, and community banks, but argues: "As remarkable as these trends are, they are unlikely to amount to more than an small sideshow on the margins of the mainstream if the only way we can conceive of confronting corporate power and bringing about a new economy is through our buying decisions... What we really need to do is change the underlying policies that shape our economy. We can't do that through the sum of our

individual behavior in the marketplace. We can only do it by exercising our collective power as citizens.”

Our events are always free and open to all. Please join us!

Where: In a private home in Bethesda, within walking distance of the Medical Center metro (Red Line), close to I-495 and Wisconsin Avenue.

To RSVP (required): Call Marney at (301) 652-0492 or e-mail forum@simplicity-matters.org . Please include your phone number in your message. Marney@simplicity-matters.org

Earth Forum of Howard County

**Sunday, January 20,
2 - 4:30 pm,
First Presbyterian Church,
9325 Presbyterian Circle, Columbia, MD.**

“Thousands of Raindrops”

Come be a part of this new, action oriented water experiment at the January 20th Earth Forum. A panel of Howard County’s leading water experts will introduce an array of interesting tips, practices, and ideas for restoring clean, healthy, and abundant water. They will discuss the secret key to cleaning up our polluted waters and restoring beautiful river landscapes for everyone. Explore issues of reduce water pollution, providing affordable water equitably, and the inter relationships of climate change and water.

Enjoy refreshments at 3 PM and then try your hand at activities at several water action stations. Free and open to all.

Information at www.earthforumhc.org . Contact earthforum@firstpreshc.org or call 410-730-3545.

The Earth Forum of Howard County is a community forum of citizens who meet to learn, discuss, explore and form action groups to address vital issues of climate change and care of the natural world. We seek beneficial ways of preserving and using its valuable resources carefully and equitably, and explore options for sustainable living in the 21st Century. The Forum series is sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Howard County in partnership with other faith communities, related county government agencies, climate change and sustainable living activists.

February Topic: Feb 17, “Extreme Weather, Predicting and Preparing” with Dr. Wayne Higgins, Director of the NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center.

The Baltimore Green Forum

**Sunday, January 27,
4 pm - 6:30 pm,
MD Presbyterian Church,
1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD
www.mpchurch.org/About.htm**

Topic: Evie Schwartz from Retrofit Baltimore

Fourth Sunday of month. Baltimore Green Forum seeks to improve the quality of all life in the greater Baltimore area. Our contribution to this goal will be to gather monthly in order to: Discern progress towards regional sustainability that has already been achieved, Discover the connections amidst the chaos of the movement and build a community of like-minded individuals, and Do -take appropriate action to address the challenges we face together. BGF is open to the public and is free of charge, but donations to MD Presbyterian Church are greatly appreciated. baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234. www.baltimoregreenforum.org

For updated program info, contact baltimoregreenforum@gmail.com, 301-345-2234, or check www.baltimoregreenforum.org .

DISCUSSION CIRCLE UPDATE

NWEI Discussion Guides: (PBF) Powering a Bright Future, (HFC) Hungry for Change, (WOH) World of Health, (SSW) Sustainable Systems at Work; (RE) Reconnecting with Earth; (GW) Global Warming: Changing CO2urse; (CSL) Choices for Sustainable Living; (DSOP) Discovering a Sense of Place; (HCHP) Healthy Children-Healthy Planet; (MF) Menu for the Future; (VS) Voluntary Simplicity. **Other guides:** (LBP) "Simplicity Lessons" by Linda Breen Pierce; (LCD) "Low Carbon Diet" by David Gershon; (YMOYL) Your Money or Your Life, (CSC) Common Security Club/Resilience Circle, (WOE) World on the Edge by Lester Brown, (SE) Sacred Economics by Charles Eisenstein

IMPORTANT NOTE: Effective Oct 1, 2012 NWEI discussion circle guides went up to \$25 plus s/h (except a few rare exceptions). They should be ordered directly from NWEI. For more info, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/circles/order.php>

So far this year, we have started 12 circles (278 total circles since 2002!). The topics have varied between Choices for Sustainable Living, Common Security Club, World on the Edge, World of Health, Menu for the Future, Hungry for Change, and Sacred Economics **There are four new circles scheduled for Jan/Feb, two in Howard County, one in Prince Georges County, one in Montgo County all marked with an asterisk (*)**

Below, you will also see listed some of the "potential" circles in the works for later this winter. More will be added as plans become more certain.

Our circles have become so widespread that **we are now breaking them down by county**. Please scroll down to see what is starting up near where you live. **For more info**, you may contact Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org unless otherwise noted.

Frederick & Washington County

UU Church of Frederick (tbd) Contact Marney at marney@simplicity-matters.org for details

Carroll County

Westminster "Regroup" Contact CirclesCarroll@Simplicity-Matters.org to join the group for discussions and to watch videos. CS: Carole Flood

Howard County

* **Oakland Manor** (PBF) Feb 2-Feb 9, CS: Florence Miller, fam57@verizon.net

* **Oakland Manor** (CSL) Feb 16-Mar 23, CS: Florence Miller, fam57@verizon.net

Kittamaquidi Community Church, Olivers Carriage House (CSC) March/April (tbd) CS: Florence Miller hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Howard County Conservancy (DSOP or MF), May 2013, CS: Florence Miller hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Robinson Nature Center (tbd) CS: Peggy Clark, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harpers Choice Village Center (tbd), CS: Susie Jordan, hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Climate Change Initiative of Howard County (CCIHC) Committee is actively pursuing other potential venues. Details to follow. Visit www.hococlimatechange.org or email hococlimatechange@gmail.com

Harford County

None currently scheduled to begin

Baltimore City/County

Baltimore "Matchmaker" Circle (tbd, as soon as we get a critical mass), CS: Lore Rosenthal, lore@simplicity-matters.org

Anne Arundel County

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park, MD (tbd), CS: Retta Barkley

Prince Georges County

***College Park, Old Parish House** (VS) First Session: Jan 16 CS: Carol Nezzo/Mary Jane Boatman, mjb180@comcast.net

Greenbelt (WOE) Will start as soon as there is a critical mass CS: Lore Rosenthal

Paint Branch UU Church (VS), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass. CS: Raman Pathik

Paint Branch UU Church (CSC), Will start as soon as there is a critical mass CS: Marj Donn

Montgomery County

Choices for Sustainable Living This newly revised discussion circle has several of us eager to put together a group. Our own Lena Rotenberg had a hand in developing it. We probably will start in January, so contact Marneyb@earthlink.net to be included.

***Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability Discussion Circle**, Starting January 14th, 7:30pm at River Road UU Congregation. Contact Marney@simplicity-matters.org for more information.

Takoma Park (CSC) CS: Bruce Baker, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Washington, DC,

Dupont Circle (CSC) CS: Rob Thomason, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

Adams Morgan (CSC) CS: Laura Gubisch, email lore@simplicity-matters.org, if interested.

We have just learned of a new group in DC also starting circles. Visit www.janyocommunity.com or <http://thejanyocommunity.wordpress.com/course/> to learn more.

Washington, DC, Join the folks of the **Washington Buddhist Peace Fellowship** to discuss diet, climate change and how our spiritual practices relate to and illuminate these issues. Please see our web site www.wbpf.org for more information (events calendar). Contact person: Bill Jenkins, worldofmuse@aol.com, (301) 699-8704

Tenleytown or on Red Line (All Topics). There is interest but we need more people. If you are interested in joining a discussion group please let me know. Marney@simplicity-matters.org, (301) 652-0492

"Circles List"/"Matchmaking"

This winter, SMEI will continue "matching" and/or "pointing" people into circles. In neighborhoods where circles are already forming, we will point you in the direction of a circle nearby. In those areas where there is not a circle already being planned, we will "match" people into home-based groups.

We have transitioned to a regional structure for the state. Please use the emails below for more information about circles starting in your county.

SMEI Regional Coordinators:

Baltimore City/Baltimore Co.: CirclesBalto@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Carroll Co.: CirclesCarroll@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Frederick & Washington Co.: CirclesFredWashCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lena Rotenberg)

Howard Co.: CirclesHoCo@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal).

See also **Climate Change Initiative of Howard County** (CCIHC) www.hococlimatechange.org

Montgomery Co.: CirclesMontgomery@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Prince Georges Co.: CirclesPG@simplicity-matters.org (Lore Rosenthal)

Washington DC: CirclesDC@simplicity-matters.org (Marney Bruce)

Elsewhere in Maryland or Jefferson Co., WV: Circles@simplicity-matters.org or 301-432-8721 (Lena Rotenberg)

For a list of our **most popular NWEI-published discussion topics**, visit <http://www.simplicity-matters.org/volunteers/forms/7guides.pdf>

If you are **starting your own circle** and would like to have your blurb posted here and on our website, please email it to Lena@simplicity-matters.org

For more info. about our discussion circles, visit our Discussion Circles page, <http://www.simplicitematters.org/circles> , or email Lore at lore@simplicity-matters.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wed, Jan 2, (Continuing Jan 9, 16, 23) Green Baltimore Seminar Series, 7 - 8:30 pm, Baltimore, MD

Notre Dame of Maryland University is offering a series of seminars about global warming that are free and open to the public. The seminars will address different topics each week including: the science of climate change and planned mitigation strategies in Baltimore and Maryland, green business practices, the media's portrayal of climate change, and the health effects of environmental degradation. All seminars will be held in the Loyola-Notre Dame Library Auditorium. Please register on the events page of the website: www.ndm.edu. For more information, contact Pat Brelsford at PBrelsford@ndm.edu. You can also learn more at <http://www.ndm.edu/academics/school-of-arts-and-sciences/green-baltimore/>

Thurs, Jan 3, Connections Over Coffee for Women, 10 am - noon, Bel Air, MD

Our Annual "Share Your Dream" meeting. Come and share a dream/goal you have for 2013 and how the women in the group can help you reach it. \$20 for guests. Light Refreshments. The Open Door Café, 528 Baltimore Pike in the Bel Air Town Center, To register www.GinnyRobertson.com , click on Upcoming Events December.

Sat, Jan 5, (Also Jan 24, Feb 21, and Mar 7) TransForm Baltimore Hearing, 10 - 11 am, Poly/Western High School

TransForm Baltimore - A New Zoning Code for a Growing City. City Council Bill 12-0152 -introduced to the City Council on October 22, 2012. This bill includes both the text and maps of the new zoning code. Electronic copies of the text and maps, and important background information, can be found at the TransForm Baltimore website. We encourage you to review this bill and/or maps, and invite you to attend one of the planning commission information sessions or hearings. In the first hour, before the formal hearing begins, staff will be on hand to answer general or specific property based questions, regardless of whether or not you decide to give formal testimony. Staff will also be available to answer questions throughout the hearing. We will also be accepting written testimony at ZoningCode@baltimorecity.gov or by mail to 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html Hearings subject to change; please check website to confirm details. CITY COUNCIL HEARING April 3, 2013, 5pm, City Hall - 4th Floor We will also be accepting written testimony at ZoningCode@baltimorecity.gov or by mail to 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html

Sun, Jan 6, 7:00 p.m. Dan & Cathy Smith's inspiring documentary film about America's best-loved tree, The American Elm: Majestic, Imperiled, Renewed. Hope Lutheran Church and Student Center, 4201 Guilford Drive, College Park, MD, www.hopecp.org

Admission is free; donations accepted. This screening is part of a new series, Movies@Hope. For more information, contact the Series Co-Producer: Paul Thompson, prthomps1@verizon.net or (240) 264-7924.

Mon, Jan 7 – 11, Building Innovation 2013, Washington, D.C

Building Innovation 2013: The National Institute of Building Sciences Conference and Expo is the first in a series of independent annual events that will support the Institute's commitment to bring together representatives of the entire building community to review advancements in science and technology and develop solutions for our built environment. With the Conference theme, Improving Resiliency through High Performance, the Institute will present an informative program that highlights its activities and programs for developing innovative solutions for our industry and improving the built environment. www.nibs.org/?page=conference

Wed, Jan 9, 10 am-12noon – Rally and Frack Water "Taste Test", Annapolis, MD

http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=231&Itemid=48&year=2013&month=01&day=09&title=frack-water-taste-test-in-annapolis&uid=600713e5d00ebabc59d2794725923345

Wed, Jan 9 (Also Jan 16, and Jan 23), Irvine Tagalong Time, 10 - 11:15 am, Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Toddlers explore nature with their favorite adult during this three-week series. We will examine a new theme each week as the seasons change before our eyes. Live animal encounters, nature walks and art projects are all part of the fun! Sign

up with your little cutie to discover the wonders of wildlife! Ages 2-3 (with adult). \$30 members, \$45 non-members.
www.explorenature.org/

Wed, Jan. 9, Bees & Brewskis with Irvine Nature Center, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Join your friends at Irvine for an evening of food, drink and some sweet knowledge of the honeybee. Enjoy a selection of craft beers and wine, then gather to hear from photographer and beekeeper extraordinaire, Steve McDaniel. Don't miss this evening dedicated to our little harvest helpers. Beverages, cocktails and a simple dinner will be served. Sorry, no children at this event. \$20. RSVP by January 8 to Courtney Sagal, 443-738-9224, or register online, www.explorenature.org/.

Wed, Jan 9, (Continuing from Jan 2, and to Jan 16, 23) Green Baltimore Seminar Series, 7 pm - 8:30 pm, Baltimore, MD

Notre Dame of Maryland University is offering a series of seminars about global warming that are free and open to the public. The seminars will address different topics each week including: the science of climate change and planned mitigation strategies in Baltimore and Maryland, green business practices, the media's portrayal of climate change, and the health effects of environmental degradation. All seminars will be held in the Loyola-Notre Dame Library Auditorium. Please register on the events page of the website: www.ndm.edu. For more information, contact Pat Brelsford at PBrelsford@ndm.edu. You can also learn more at <http://www.ndm.edu/academics/school-of-arts-and-sciences/green-baltimore/>

Thu, Jan 10, Year 2035 MD Transportation Plan Meeting – MDOT, 8:30 - 11:30 am, SHA District 7 Office 5111 Buckeystown Pike Frederick, MD 21704

The Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) is a 20-year vision for transportation. It outlines the State's transportation goals, policies and priorities and helps guide statewide investment decisions across all modes of transportation. The MTP is one component of the annual State Report on Transportation, which also includes the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and the Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance (AR). The CTP is Maryland's six-year capital budget for transportation projects, and the AR tracks MDOT's progress each year towards attaining the goals and objectives of the MTP based on outcome-oriented performance measures.
www.mdot.maryland.gov/Office%20of%20Planning%20and%20Capital%20Programming/Maryland_Transportation_Plan/index.html

Fri, Jan 11, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk, 8 - 9:30 am Patterson Park Audubon Center, Baltimore, MD

Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park. Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about the many birds that reside in Patterson Park in the winter! Audubon experts from the Chesapeake Audubon Society will be on hand to answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore! Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, Jan 12, Irvine Candy Cane Recycling, 11 am - noon, Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Ever wonder what you can do with all those left over peppermint candy canes? We will show you a few fun and tasty ways to turn them into a recycled treat! All supplies provided. Ages 6 & up. \$5 members, \$15 non-members
www.explorenature.org/

Sun, Jan 13, Fracking: What is at Risk for MD? 12 noon - 1:30 pm, Silver Spring, MD

Learn from Maryland Delegate Heather Mizeur how fracking in Maryland would affect both Montgomery County and western Maryland. Find out what we can do to safeguard against the hazards of unregulated fracking. Share ideas, get questions answered. Held at Christ Congregational Church, 9525 Colesville Road (at Brewster Ave.), Silver Spring, MD. Lunch and child care provided! Register by sending email to Jim Conklin at jconklinjr@verizon.net with the subject "Learn about Fracking in Maryland". Please specify the total number in your group and how many children will need childcare.

Tue, Jan 15 – Thu, 17, Volunteer for Baltimore's 2013 Wintertime Bicycle Traffic Counts

Baltimore will be conducting its 3rd wintertime bike counts. Baltimore experienced a 137% increase in winter bike commuting from 2011 to 2012. These counts will continue to monitor the level of cycling. Volunteers are needed to brave the elements this January and tabulate bike traffic at: Guilford & Mt. Royal Avenues, Pratt Street & Market Place, Falls Road & Maryland Avenue, Aliceanna & Boston Streets and Keswick Avenue & Wyman Park Drive. Count times will be from 7:30 to 9:30 am and 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Sign up to verify Baltimore's 2013 wintertime bicycle traffic!
www.bmorebikes.com/may-2011-bike-traffic-counts-sign-up/

Tue, Jan 15, 2013 Baltimore Design Competition Kick-Off Celebration, 3 - 6 pm, Humanim at the American Brewery (2nd Floor Events Room), 1701 N. Gay Street, Baltimore, MD 21213

The Carbon Challenge promotes environmentally-friendly residential design concepts for future urban residential development in the City of Baltimore. This green building design competition, presented by the US Forest Service and APA – The Engineered Wood Association, challenges architects and building designers to rethink their perceptions of construction materials and produce homes with less greenhouse gasses (CO₂e) and lower fossil fuel use. The competition invites Baltimore architects and home designers to submit designs for an environmentally-friendly urban row house. Designs will be judged according to several important environmental and construction-related criteria that will result in the smallest carbon footprint. As such, the competition will serve to educate today's home designers, builders, and community groups about how sustainable design strategies can reduce fossil fuel use and address climate change -- two environmental issues that are widely regarded as critical issues for Baltimore, our nation, and the world.
www.apawood.org/carbonchallenge/baltimore/

Tues, Jan 15, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, 7-9:15 pm, Room 114, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive. Heather Mizeur and Dannielle Lipinski, "Environmental Update for the 2013 MD Legislative Session" For more info, contact Lore, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Wed, Jan 16, (Continuing from Jan 2 and 9, and to Jan 23) Green Baltimore Seminar Series, 7 - 8:30 pm, Baltimore, MD

Notre Dame of Maryland University is offering a series of seminars about global warming that are free and open to the public. The seminars will address different topics each week including: the science of climate change and planned mitigation strategies in Baltimore and Maryland, green business practices, the media's portrayal of climate change, and the health effects of environmental degradation. All seminars will be held in the Loyola-Notre Dame Library Auditorium. Please register on the events page of the website: www.ndm.edu. For more information, contact Pat Brelsford at PBrelsford@ndm.edu. You can also learn more at <http://www.ndm.edu/academics/school-of-arts-and-sciences/green-baltimore/>

Wed, Jan 16, Winter Potluck and Indoor Plant Exchange, 7:30 pm, Hefner Center, Takoma Park, MD

Hosted by the Takoma Horticultural Club. This event is limited to THC members only -- you can join at the door for just \$12 per year. For more information, contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, Wgardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.takomahort.org.

Wed, Jan 16 (Continuing from 16, and to 23), Irvine Tagalong Time, 10 - 11:15 am, Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Toddlers explore nature with their favorite adult during this three-week series. We will examine a new theme each week as the seasons change before our eyes. Live animal encounters, nature walks and art projects are all part of the fun! Sign up with your little cutie to discover the wonders of wildlife! Ages 2-3 (with adult). \$30 members, \$45 non-members.
www.explorenature.org/

Thurs, Jan 17, 11 am, Rally in Annapolis to Get Money Out of Politics, Lawyer's Mall, Annapolis, MD.

This rally is to mark the third anniversary of the "*Citizens United*" Supreme Court decision.
RSVP here: http://www.getmoneyoutmd.org/rally_annaplis_jan_17th_2013
(or on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/events/135188839970928/>)

Thu, Jan 17, 5th Annual BGW Wintergreen, 6 pm - 9 pm, Red Maple Restaurant and Lounge, 930 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Baltimore Green Works invites you to the 5th Winter Green Annual Meeting & Happy Hour event. Take the chance to connect with other eco-minded organizations and individuals. Relax, grab a beverage and some food, make new friends or connect with old. In the past, this has proven to be a great opportunity to share year end successes and plan for new!
baltimoregreenworks.com/events/

Fri, Jan 18 – Sat, 19, 14th Annual Future Harvest CASA Conference, National Conference Center - Lansdowne, VA

CASA: Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture "Farming for Profit and Stewardship" Join more than 400 Chesapeake-region farmers, agriculture experts, food system advocates and service providers to learn about new markets, new techniques, and new opportunities for greater environmental, social and economic sustainability in both small-scale and large-scale farming and food production. 2 full days - 40+ sessions 6 pre-conference workshops & 6 specialized tracks. Special sessions on issues and advocacy. www.futureharvestcasa.org/

Fri, Jan 18, Maryland Environmental Health Network Presentation, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

The Maryland Environmental Health Network will be privileged to host Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Her talk is titled: "You can't change your genes, but you can change your

environment!" Some of us heard Dr. Birnbaum speak in October at the Pesticides & the Chesapeake Bay conference. She offered a tour de force survey of latest research in environmental health, covering: Environmental chemicals implicated in obesity & diabetes, Health effects of energy extraction: e.g. fracking, the Deep Water Horizon disaster, Public health implications & pay-offs from addressing environmental effects. Departing from our usual day and time, Dr. Birnbaum's talk will begin at 12:30 on January 18. mdehn.org/network-meetings/

Sun, Jan 20, Irvine Play with Your Food, 10:30 - 11:30 am, Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Have you ever heard of a bento box? Bento boxes motivate kids to be creative, eat healthy, and pack their own school lunch, all while creating a "waste free" lunch. Try your hand at creating a bento box and take home a few pieces for your new bento box collection. Ages 5 & up (with adult). \$5 members, \$15 non-members www.explorenature.org/

Mon, Jan 21, Pruning Deciduous Woody Plants, 8 pm (doors open at 7:30 pm), Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

The Silver Spring Garden Club host a talk: Pruning Deciduous Woody Plants. How do you select and prune out growth that will become a problem later? Why prune woody plants at all and exactly where do you cut? These and many other questions will be answered in this PowerPoint presentation by Jim DeRamus, which is normally reserved for the Woody Pruning Workshop for Brookside volunteers. Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions and details at www.brooksidegardens.com.

Tue, Jan 22, Year 2035 MD Transportation Plan Meeting – MDOT, 8:30 - 11:30 am, MDOT Headquarters 7201 Corporate Center Drive Hanover, MD 21076

The Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) is a 20-year vision for transportation. It outlines the State's transportation goals, policies and priorities and helps guide statewide investment decisions across all modes of transportation. The MTP is one component of the annual State Report on Transportation, which also includes the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and the Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance (AR). The CTP is Maryland's six-year capital budget for transportation projects, and the AR tracks MDOT's progress each year towards attaining the goals and objectives of the MTP based on outcome-oriented performance measures.

www.mdot.maryland.gov/Office%20of%20Planning%20and%20Capital%20Programming/Maryland_Transportation_Plan/index.html

Tues, Jan. 22, Maple Sugaring Volunteer Training with Irvine Nature Center, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Owings Mills, MD

This 2-session course will equip you to lead preschool and elementary-aged students on maple sugaring school field trips at Irvine. Learn how to recognize maple trees in winter, how to tap the trees to collect the sap, and how to boil down the sap down into maple syrup and candy. We will also cover teaching techniques and other signs of winter. Second day of training is Jan. 24. Free! Call Courtney Sagal, 443-738-9224.

Tue, Jan 22, Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Meetings, 4 - 5 pm, Department of Planning, 8th Floor, 417 E. Fayette St. Baltimore MD

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability holds regular monthly meetings usually on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public. The Commission is made up of 21 members representing environmental groups, community organizations, labor unions, public health and environmental justice interests, and private industry. www.baltimorecity.gov/Government/AgenciesDepartments/Planning/OfficeofSustainability.aspx

Wed, Jan 23, (Continuing from Jan 9, 16) Green Baltimore Seminar Series, 7 - 8:30 pm, Baltimore, MD

Notre Dame of Maryland University is offering a series of seminars about global warming that are free and open to the public. The seminars will address different topics each week including: the science of climate change and planned mitigation strategies in Baltimore and Maryland, green business practices, the media's portrayal of climate change, and the health effects of environmental degradation. All seminars will be held in the Loyola-Notre Dame Library Auditorium. Please register on the events page of the website: www.ndm.edu. For more information, contact Pat Brelsford at PBrelsford@ndm.edu. You can also learn more at <http://www.ndm.edu/academics/school-of-arts-and-sciences/green-baltimore/>

Wed, Jan 23 (Continuing from 9 and 16), Irvine Tagalong Time, 10 – 11:15 am, Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Toddlers explore nature with their favorite adult during this three-week series. We will examine a new theme each week as the seasons change before our eyes. Live animal encounters, nature walks and art projects are all part of the fun! Sign up with your little cutie to discover the wonders of wildlife! Ages 2-3 (with adult). \$30 members, \$45 non-members. www.explorenature.org/

Thu, Jan 24, (Also Feb 21, and Mar 7) TransForm Baltimore Hearing, 5 - 6 pm, Southeast Regional Library

TransForm Baltimore - A New Zoning Code for a Growing City. City Council Bill 12-0152 -introduced to the City Council on October 22, 2012. This bill includes both the text and maps of the new zoning code. Electronic copies of the text and maps, and important background information, can be found at the TransForm Baltimore website. We encourage you to review this bill and/or maps, and invite you to attend one of the planning commission information sessions or hearings. In the first hour, before the formal hearing begins, staff will be on hand to answer general or specific property based questions, regardless of whether or not you decide to give formal testimony. Staff will also be available to answer questions throughout the hearing. We will also be accepting written testimony at ZoningCode@baltimorecity.gov or by mail to 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html. CITY COUNCIL HEARING April 3, 2013, 5pm, City Hall - 4th Floor We will also be accepting written testimony at ZoningCode@baltimorecity.gov or by mail to 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html

Thu, Jan 24, 8th USGBC MD Annual Wintergreen Awards, 5:30 - 9:30 pm, M&T Bank Stadium 1101 Russell Street Baltimore, MD 21230

Join us for the 8th Annual Wintergreen Awards for Excellence in Green Building! Enjoy food, drink and networking with the Maryland sustainable community and help us celebrate the 2012 award winners. For any questions or to request additional information please contact, Karen Evans, Wintergreen Awards Chair at 410-337-6903, karen.evans@whiting-turner.com, or Mary Pulcinella, Executive Director at 443-416-5848, mpulcinella@usgbcmd.org. www.usgbcmd.org/wintergreen

Fri, Jan 25, Year 2035 MD Transportation Plan Meeting – Chestertown, 8:30 - 11:30 am, SHA District 2 Office 615 Morgnec Road Chestertown, MD 21620

The Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) is a 20-year vision for transportation. It outlines the State's transportation goals, policies and priorities and helps guide statewide investment decisions across all modes of transportation. The MTP is one component of the annual State Report on Transportation, which also includes the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and the Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance (AR). The CTP is Maryland's six-year capital budget for transportation projects, and the AR tracks MDOT's progress each year towards attaining the goals and objectives of the MTP based on outcome-oriented performance measures.

www.mdot.maryland.gov/Office%20of%20Planning%20and%20Capital%20Programming/Maryland_Transportation_Plan/index.html

Fri, Jan 25, Audubon Tiny Tots Safari: For the Birds, 10 - 11 am, Patterson Park Audubon Center

Meet at the picnic tables on the northeast shore of the Boat Lake in Patterson Park. Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play games, and read a story. This month, Tiny Tots is going to the birds! We'll learn what makes a bird a bird using all our senses. Discover how Audubon's favorite animals look, sound, and feel, and even learn to eat like a bird! Ages 2-5. \$5 suggested donation per child, with an adult. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Fri, Jan 25, Baltimore Bike Party, 7 - 9:30 pm, meet at the Washington Monument in Mt. Vernon Baltimore

Come ride and party through the great streets of Baltimore City with all your friends the last Friday of every month! We stay together as a group and follow a pre-determined route through the city. The wheels hit the road at 7:30. We usually ride until ~9:30 with 1 or 2 stops along the way. The ride is a slow pace (~6-10mph) designed to keep everyone of all biking abilities together! One of our goals is to build a positive bond between cyclists and other citizens of Baltimore. Revelry! Music! Lights! Costumes! Bells and air horns! Streamers and glitter! We are all here to have a good time. Have a friend(s) with a bike? Bring them along! Don't have any friends? Come make some! We are all about having a good time and building the cycling community! baltimorebikeparty.com/

Sat, Jan 26, Audubon Urban Bird Watching Walk and Tiny Tots Safari 8 - 11 am, Patterson Park Audubon Center, Baltimore, MD

8:00 – 9:30 am: Urban Bird Watching Walk · Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of Patterson Park. Bring the family to Patterson Park to learn about the many birds that reside in Patterson Park in the winter! Audubon experts from Audubon Maryland-DC will be on hand to answer questions about our feathered friends. If you would like to borrow binoculars, drop us an email – we have plenty to share! There is no need to RSVP for this event, just arrive ready to explore!

10:00 – 11:00 am: Tiny Tots Safari: For the Birds · Meet at the picnic tables on the northeast shore of the Boat Lake in Patterson Park. Tiny Tots is an early childhood environmental education program where kids make a craft, play games, and read a story. This month, We'll learn what makes a bird a bird using all our senses. Discover how Audubon's favorite animals look, sound, and feel, and even learn to eat like a bird! Ages 2-5. \$5 suggested donation per child, with an adult. Patterson Park Audubon Center 410.558.2473 or ppaudubon@gmail.com. pattersonpark.audubon.org/

Sat, Jan 26, Keep Winter Cold 2013 Polar Bear Plunge, 11 am – 1 pm, The Beach at National Harbor, Maryland

The annual "Keep Winter Cold" Polar Bear Plunge is the Chesapeake Climate Action Network's priority annual grassroots fundraising event -- powering our victories to move Maryland, Virginia and DC off of planet-heating fossil fuels and to clean energy. Once a year, activists, friends and families in the MD/DC/VA region demonstrate their commitment to combat climate change -- and keep winter cold --- by taking a quick dip into the icy Potomac River at National Harbor. www.firstgiving.com/chesapeakeclimate/keep-winter-cold-2013/

Sat, Jan 26, 8th Annual Seed Exchange, 12:30 - 4 pm, Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, MD

Washington Gardener Magazine hosts its 8th Annual Seed Exchange in MD. Expert speakers, catalog swap table, rare seeds, etc. All are welcome — even if you have no seeds to trade! \$15 fee. Registration is required and details can be found at: washingtongardener.blogspot.com or contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions at www.brooksidegardens.com.

Sun, Jan. 27, Open House: The Nature Preschool at Irvine Nature Center, 1-3 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Discover our unique approach to early childhood education! Parents can join our impassioned teachers in a casual, drop-in setting for some light refreshments and discuss your toddler's educational future at The Nature Preschool. Children are welcome to tag along so they can experience Irvine's learning environment for themselves. Contact Monica at 443-738-9213 for questions.

Sun, Jan 27, Delicious in a Jar, 1 - 4 pm, Owings Mills, MD

Learn the basics of home canning, an easy and fun way to savor seasonal flavors and support local farmers. After this short course, taught by jelly master Beth Lacey Gill, you'll be prepped for some practice canning before spring and summer bounties show up and need preserving. And you'll leave with your very own safely canned jar of caramel apple jam. Geared toward adults, but okay for ages 12 & up. Register online at www.explorenature.org.

Mon, Jan 28, Irvine Day Off Camp 9 am - 3 pm, Irvine Nature Center. 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

No school and no plans today? Explore outdoors with us instead! We'll search the wintery woods for signs of different animal habitats. Expect trail walks, nature games, crafts, stories, animal encounters and more. Children should wear nature-friendly clothing and bring a lunch. Ages 6-10. \$50 members, \$60 non-members (after care available until 6 p.m. for additional fee) www.explorenature.org/

Tue, Jan 29, Year 2035 MD Transportation Plan Meeting, 8:30 - 11:30 am, Greenbelt SHA District 3 Office 9300 Kenilworth Avenue Greenbelt, MD 20770

The Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) is a 20-year vision for transportation. It outlines the State's transportation goals, policies and priorities and helps guide statewide investment decisions across all modes of transportation. The MTP is one component of the annual State Report on Transportation, which also includes the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and the Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance (AR). The CTP is Maryland's six-year capital budget for transportation projects, and the AR tracks MDOT's progress each year towards attaining the goals and objectives of the MTP based on outcome-oriented performance measures.

www.mdot.maryland.gov/Office%20of%20Planning%20and%20Capital%20Programming/Maryland_Transportation_Plan/index.html

Tues, Jan 29, 4:30- 6:00 PM - Save the Date for the Annual Environmental Legislative Summit in

Annapolis <http://www.mdlev.org/calendar/summit>

Wed, Jan 30, Irvine Woodland Walks, 11:30 am - 12:15 pm, Irvine Nature Center, 11201 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Join us for a stroll through the woods and see how it transitions from winter to spring. During each walk, we'll focus on a different part of what makes the forest a special and magical place to explore and how we can help keep it that way! This is a great way for new members or those thinking of membership to find out what Irvine is all about. Come dressed for the weather! Pre- k – 1st grade (with adult, siblings welcome). Every other January 30 through March 27. Free for members, \$10 non-members. www.explorenature.org/

Thu, Jan 31, Baltimore Green Drinks / Network Green, 6 - 9 pm, The Dogwood in Hampden (911 W. 36th St). Baltimore MD

The event is sponsored by Civic Works and Seven Seas Energy. All people who work in the environmental field or would like to learn more are welcome to come. For more information, please contact bliu@baltimoregreencareers.org

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES AND TIDBITS

Wed, Jan 2, Innovation Maryland: Contest Deadline

How are you helping to make Maryland a better place to live, learn and work? Whether you are a teacher that finds new ways to inspire your students, an entrepreneur who has chosen to relocate to Maryland or a farmer who is choosing to use greener land management practices, we want to hear from you! From now through January 2, 2013, we are accepting submissions of up to 100 words that describe how you are moving Maryland forward. Don't wait; share your story today for a chance to join Governor O'Malley as his guest at the annual State of the State address.
governor.maryland.gov/stateofstatecontest.asp

Wed, Jan 16, Engineering Green - Submission Deadline

Engineering Green 2013 is a joint event presented by the MD Chapter of the USGBC and the MD Section of ASCE. The event will be held March 6, 2013 at the Engineering Society of Baltimore. We are now soliciting projects/topics to be presented at the conference. Notice of acceptance will be sent out on or around January 23, 2013.
www.usgbcmd.org/engineering-green-2013
www.usgbcmd.org/Resources/Documents/engineeringgreen2013%20call%20for%20presentations.pdf

Fri, Jan 18, Living Future unConference Call for Proposal Deadline

The International Living Future Institute is now accepting proposals for education sessions and presenters / moderators / facilitators for its 2013 program. We are looking for creativity, depth and innovation in both session topics and format. Out-of-the-ordinary learning and networking formats provide innovative design strategies, cutting-edge technical information, and the inspiration needed to achieve significant progress in pursuit of a future that is socially just, culturally rich and ecologically restorative. living-future.org/ilfi/education-events/living-future-unconference/program-speakers

Mon, Jan 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

January 21, 2013 will mark the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday. This milestone is a perfect opportunity for Americans to honor Dr. King's legacy through service. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a beloved community. mlkday.gov/about/serveonkingday.php

Interested in solar energy? Join the MD SUN solar conversation!

If you've ever been interested in going solar or want to support more renewables in MD, join the MD SUN email list! We post periodic updates about solar in Maryland and information on how you can help support renewable energy in the state. Postings will include info about inspiring solar projects, exchanging practical information, as well as legislative updates on bills in the Maryland Legislature (January through April). Click here to sign up http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50105/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=7196 or contact David Brosch, davidcbrosch@comcast.net, for more information. You can choose between frequent or occasional updates.

Florence Miller is available to offer the Climate Reality Project presentation to groups. The presentation is a 90-minute talk and discussion. Florence attended the Climate Reality Leadership Corps training with Al Gore and other exceptional climate leaders in August in San Francisco, California. The training brought together passionate volunteers from around the world to equip them with the tools needed to engage communities and educate the public about climate change and how we can solve it. Please contact her at fam57@verizon.net.

FEBRUARY PREVIEW & BEYOND

Sat, Feb 2, 8th Annual Seed Exchange, 12:30 pm – 4 pm, Green Spring Gardens, Annandale, VA

Washington Gardener Magazine hosts its 8th Annual Seed Exchange in VA. speakers, catalog swap table, rare seeds, etc. All are welcome — even if you have no seeds to trade! \$15 fee. Registration is required and details can be found at: washingtongardener.blogspot.com or contact Kathy Jentz, 301-588-6894, WGardenermag@aol.com. Directions at www.brooksidegardens.com.

Tue, Feb 12, Wenonah Hauter talks about her book Foodopoly: The Battle Over the Future of Food and Farming in America, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Baltimore, MD

Join Baltimore GreenWorks and Enoch Pratt Free Library's Sustainable Speaker Series at the Enoch Pratt Central Library's Wheeler Auditorium, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201 for Wenonah Hauter's talk about her book Foodopoly: The Battle Over the Future of Food and Farming In America. This is a free event. For information please contact Nina at bgw@baltimoregreenworks.com or check <http://baltimoregreenworks.com/events/> .

Sun, Feb 17, time TBA, Rally against the Keystone XL Pipeline, Washington, DC

350.org and the Do the Math Tour are back in DC for massive rally to tell the President that we expect leadership on climate change, beginning with a rejection of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. Sponsored by 350.org and the Sierra Club. Info and signup: <http://act.350.org/signup/presidentsday/>

Thu, Feb 21, TransForm Baltimore Hearing, 5pm, Morgan State University

TransForm Baltimore - A New Zoning Code for a Growing City. Baltimore City Department of Planning We are very pleased to announce that City Council Bill 12-0152 -TransForm Baltimore, was introduced to the City Council on October 22, 2012. This bill includes both the text and maps of the new zoning code. Electronic copies of the text and maps, and important background information, can be found at the TransForm Baltimore website. We encourage you to review this bill and/or maps, and invite you to attend one of the following planning commission information sessions or hearings. PLEASE NOTE, In the first hour, before the formal hearing starts, staff will be on hand to answer general or specific property based questions, regardless of whether or not you decide to give formal testimony. Staff will also be available to answer questions throughout the hearing. Also, March 7, Location TBA, Planning Department * Hearings subject to change; please check website to confirm details. CITY COUNCIL HEARING April 3, 2013, 5pm, City Hall - 4th Floor We will also be accepting written testimony at ZoningCode@baltimorecity.gov or by mail to 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the hearings, please feel free to contact us at (410) 396-5173. www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html

Tues, Feb. 26, Master Naturalist Course with Irvine Nature Center, 6- 9 p.m., Owings Mills, MD

Irvine is proud to host University of Maryland Extension's Maryland Master Naturalist Course. This 13-session course will engage citizens as stewards of Maryland's natural ecosystems through science-based education and volunteer service in their communities. \$250. Tuesdays and Saturdays, February 26 through April 16 (except March 30) on Tuesdays, and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturdays. See www.MasterNaturalist.umd.edu for details or to register.

Wed, Feb 27, 8:30 am-4:00 pm, non-profit Bike Maryland hosts the 16th Annual Maryland State Bicycle Symposium, Senate Miller Building President Conference Center, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD.

www.bikemd.org

Thu, Mar 7, TransForm Baltimore Hearing, 5pm – 6pm, Location TBA, Planning Department

TransForm Baltimore - A New Zoning Code for a Growing City. Baltimore City Department of Planning We are very pleased to announce that City Council Bill 12-0152 -TransForm Baltimore, was introduced to the City Council on October 22, 2012. This bill includes both the text and maps of the new zoning code. Electronic copies of the text and maps, and important background information, can be found at the TransForm Baltimore website. We encourage you to review this bill and/or maps, and invite you to attend one of the following planning commission information sessions or hearings. PLEASE NOTE, PLEASE NOTE, In the first hour, before the formal hearing starts, staff will be on hand to answer general or specific property based questions, regardless of whether or not you decide to give formal testimony. Staff will also be available to answer questions throughout the hearing. CITY COUNCIL HEARING April 3, 2013, 5pm, City Hall - 4th Floor We will also be accepting written testimony at ZoningCode@baltimorecity.gov or by mail to 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the hearings, please feel free to contact us at (410) 396-5173. www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html

Wed/Thur, Mar 20-21, Carrie Murray Nature Center, Baltimore, MD. Two day live-streaming training by Joel Salatin of Polyface Farms (featured in Food, Inc. and The Omnivore's Dilemma) Each day is a self-contained workshop based on one of Salatin's books: Day 1 is "So You Want to Be a Farmer?" and Day 2 "Pastured Poultry Profits."

<http://carriemurraynaturecenter.org/>

Wed, Apr 3, TransForm Baltimore City Council Hearing, 5pm, City Hall - 4th Floor

TransForm Baltimore - A New Zoning Code for a Growing City. Baltimore City Department of Planning We are very pleased to announce that City Council Bill 12-0152 -TransForm Baltimore, was introduced to the City Council on October 22, 2012. This bill includes both the text and maps of the new zoning code. Electronic copies of the text and maps, and important background information, can be found at the TransForm Baltimore website. We encourage you to review this bill and/or maps, and invite you to attend one of the following planning commission information sessions or hearings. Hearings subject to change; please check website to confirm details. We will also be accepting written testimony at ZoningCode@baltimorecity.gov or by mail to 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. If you have any questions or concerns prior to the hearings, please feel free to contact us at (410) 396-5173. www.rewritebaltimore.org/news_events.html